As I have said, as Government are anxious to see that the Madras Public Service Commission Bill is passed through at this meeting, I would make a suggestion to the House; and if it is agreeable to the Members of the House, we can agree to that course, and that is this: that the first and the only business on Thursday will be the Madras Public Service Commission Bill, and if hon. Members are prepared to agree to finish the Bill by lunch time and pass it before rising, I would be agreeable to have the House adjourned and then meet next at the end of the month."

## VI.—THE MADRAS REVENUE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL (BILL No. 1 OF 1936).

* The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Revenue (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill [a] (Bill No. 1 of 1936) and move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.

" Sir, I have had drafted a pretty detailed statement of objects and reasons which I think covers the whole ground of the necessity for this Bill. The House has already on a previous occasion approved the principle of delegation of powers to the Board of Revenue in somewhat similar circumstances and I do not think it is necessary for me to state very much more than what is given in the statement of objects and reasons. There is another reason, as has been stated here, why a reference to the Governor in Council in all those Acts should be done away with, and that is, of course under the new Constitution, there will be no such body as the Governor-in-Council. The nomenclature 'Governor-in-Council' will be obsolete when the new Government of India Act comes in. This Bill, generally speaking, simply proposes to carry out what in practice has been the case in the past, that is to say, to make the Board of Revenue the final authority in those three cases which are mentioned in the statement of objects and reasons. To my knowledge, the Government has had no occasion to pass any orders under those old Acts, I do not know for how many years, and the inclusion of a reference to the Government under those Acts is unnecessary, and in fact, such a reference has not been made for a very long time. In view of what I have said, I trust the House will agree to take this Bill into consideration now."

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I second it, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—" Mr. President, Sir, I am not sure whether the Government are well-advised in introducing a Bill of this sort just on the eve of the Reforms. I may tell the Hon. the Revenue Member that the question of the retention of the Board of Revenue has been long under discussion and there are very strong opinions on both sides of the matter; and in a matter like this, that Government should do anything to enlarge the powers of the Board of Revenue and so make it more difficult for those who are for the abolition

[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 7th January 1936.

of the Board to take such steps as are necessary to ensure their object, I think, is not fair to the future Government which will be ushered into existence as a result of the Reforms. That is one aspect of the matter which I wish to submit for the consideration of the Government.

"There is also another matter in connexion with this. During the last few years, I have been seeing that the prestige and position of the provincial officers are getting more and more lowered, if I may put it like that. For example, many things which hitherto were left to the Government to deal with, have been delegated to the Board of Revenue. It may be, Sir, that the Government, as a rule, have been endorsing whatever the Board of Revenue might say, but at the same time, the right of the provincial officers to approach the Government is a precious privilege which I think should not be taken away lightheartedly. I am afraid, this Bill will have that effect also. I therefore wish to place these two matters for the consideration of the House."

* The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Mr. President, Sir, I think the answer to my hon. Friend is simple. First of all, he objects to giving the Board of Revenue more powers in view of the fact that it might be abolished. All I can say is, if the Board of Revenue is abolished, its powers will go too. Not only this. In the second place, he suggested that the position of the members of the provincial services will deteriorate or something of the sort. For that, all I can say is, that under the new Government of India Act, every public servant is a servant of the Crown and he has the privilege of direct access to the Governor. In fact, this Bill makes no difference whatever in the position of Government servants in any way. Every Government servant has the right, under the new Government of India Act, as a servant of the Crown, of direct access to the Governor. And, I may point out further that this Bill does not give any additional powers to the Board of Revenue. It merely gives powers which they have now, except that there is no necessity for a reference to the Governor which they had under the old Acts and which now seems to me to be out-of-date. I trust, Sir, therefore, the House will agree to the consideration of this Bill."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is that Bill No. 1 of 1936 be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clauses 1 to 4 were put and carried.

The Preamble was then put and carried.

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Mr. President, Sir, I now beg to move that the Bill be passed into law."

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I second the motion, Sir."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is that the Bill be passed into law."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.